

**RMMBHA:
Western Challenge Cup**



**Guidelines for Coaches,
Parents and Players**

Tournament History:

In 1999, the minor ball hockey associations of BC and Alberta founded the Western Challenge Cup (WCC), as there was no National or Western Championships for minor ball hockey competitors. This tournament would serve as a venue to challenge skilled minor ball hockey players with a chance to compete against other teams throughout BC and Alberta at a higher level.

Since the start of the WCC, the tournament has been hosted by Edmonton, Calgary and cities throughout the Lower Mainland. This tournament has grown over the years with a participation expectancy of a minimum of 32 teams each year. The tournament occurs over a four (4) day period usually during the middle of July.

After the 2011 WCC tournament in Edmonton, there was a vote between all the associations and the result was the reclassification of the competing divisions. For the upcoming 2019 WCC, the age groups are as follows:

- U11 Division - Players born in 2008 and 2009 (may include players born in 2010 if desired.)
- U13 Division - Players born in 2006 and 2007
- U15 Division - Players born in 2004 and 2005
- U17 Division - Players born in 2002 and 2003
- U19 Division - Players born in 2000 and 2001

General Philosophy:

The WCC provides an added opportunity for players within our league to challenge themselves in competition against other associations. This is a **competitive program** that provides an opportunity for players to compete and further develop their ball hockey skills with a focus on commitment to team success. Representative (REP) ball hockey is the ultimate grouping of players with excellent ball hockey skills, perseverance and enthusiasm, guided by experienced coaching, additional training and commitment to play against some of the best players from other associations.

REP ball hockey requires an added commitment, beyond what is expected during the house season. There will be added expense to parents and players, so it is important to consider this before committing to be part of a team. Any additional expenses cover costs related to exhibition games floor time, refereeing fees, team apparel, tournament fees, travel expenses (if applicable) and other miscellaneous items. Parents/Guardians and players need to consider personal schedules, before committing to be on a WCC team, as games can take place during the workday and some evenings. It is not fair to the team, coaches, the association and other players to commit your son/daughter to a WCC team and then pull them before the tournament.

WCC head coaches will work with technical directors, the league's president and the WCC coordinator to form competitive teams by choosing from the pools of registered players in our house league, and the high school league (when applicable) from each age level. The main goal is to select players to form the strongest possible team to compete at the WCC tournament.

There is **NO** requirement from coaches to hold positions for returning players in the current year's WCC tournament.

PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE NOT TO SOLICIT COACHES FOR A PLACEMENT ON A WCC TEAM!

Floor time, aka "playing time," will be as fair as possible, but "fair play" is **not** a requirement of REP ball hockey. Coaches will take a player's strengths and overall team performance into consideration and make decisions that are in the best interest of the team. During exhibition games and the WCC tournament, the coaching staff may choose to play players who have demonstrated the athletic ability to perform in certain game situations.

It is a privilege to represent the RMMBHA on a WCC team, so full attendance to key team events is expected. Due to the expedited season, it is important that all participants and coaches commit 100% to practices, exhibition games, team events and the WCC tournament itself. Exceptions will only be made for RMMBHA regular season or playoff games. Any players on a WCC team are exempt from a team function if they have a regular season or playoff game scheduled for the same time. Practice times for any WCC team will be limited during the RMMBHA playoffs.

Any vacation time or commitment to another sports team, club, program, should be discussed with the head coach prior to committing to a team. While we encourage players be involved in multiple sports, players choosing to commit to a RMMBHA WCC team should see this as their **FIRST** commitment. It is the league's expectation that every player and coach attend all practices, games and team functions unless a previous agreement has been made with the coaching staff or the league's executive.

Coaches Registration and Selection Process:

1. If someone is interested in coaching a WCC team, they must be a registered head/assistant coach with RMMBHA or a registered member of RMMBHA in the current WCC tournament year.
2. Coaches interested in coaching, **MUST** complete an on-line application form that will be made available on the RMMBHA website, WCC (current year) page.
3. The applications will be sorted by age group. If there is more than one applicant per age group, each coaching candidate will be scheduled for a panel interview.
4. The interview panel will consist of two to four (2-4) technical directors and the WCC coordinator. If there is any conflict for any of the panel members to sit in on the interview, then the league's president will take his/her place.
5. Once the interviews are completed, the panel will decide which coaching candidate they recommend for the head coach position at each age group.
6. It will be up to the coach's discretion, with final approval from the WCC coordinator and the president, to choose his/her assistant coaches and manager. Head coaches can have up to three (3) assistant coaches and one (1) team manager.

Player Selection:

U13, U15, U17, U19 Age Groups-

The goal of REP ball hockey is for players to play at the Western Challenge Cup (WCC), which is a higher level than our regular house league, and player selections should reflect that goal.

Player selections for this age group will follow this process:

1. Coaches will select players in order to form the strongest possible team to perform at the WCC tournament. They will review team rosters, the current season's and last season's statistics and whenever possible, attend regular season games to gauge players' abilities and skill level in game situations, before making their decisions.
2. When coaches have compiled a team roster to form a WCC team for their age group, they will send the list to the WCC Co-ordinator.
3. The WCC coordinator, the technical directors and the league's president will review these potential rosters. Once this committee has approved the potential roster, head coaches can then begin approaching listed players and seek participation in the WCC tournament.
4. If it comes to the attention of this committee that coaches are soliciting player participation or making promises **BEFORE** the league's approval of potential rosters, they may be asked to forfeit their position as head coach.
5. Once the head coach has agreement and commitment from enough players to make the team, he/she will submit the final roster to the WCC Co-ordinator. This roster will then be posted on the WCC page of the RMMBHA's website.
6. If for any reason a coach needs to make a change to his/her team roster, he/she must notify the WCC co-ordinator and technical directors and request approval before making any changes. Then and only then, can he/she approach the replacement team player.

U11 Age Group-

The head coach will follow the same process for team selection as the older age groups. However, due to this being the first year many of the players for this age group are eligible for a WCC team placement, and the volume of interest, it is to the U11 head coach's discretion if he/she would like to hold an ***invitation only try-out*** to fill any vacancies on the U11 WCC team roster. These try-outs would serve the purpose of allowing the U11 head coach more opportunity to evaluate player skills to fill any position available on the team roster. If the head coach feels that they have enough commitment to fill all roster spots, without a try-out, they can opt out of this process and follow the rest of the Player Selection Process as the other age groups.

- **U11 Invitational Try-Out Process**

If the U11 head coach decides on holding an invitational try-out, this process MUST be followed:

1. Only registered (U11 eligible) RMMBHA players for the current WCC tournament season may be invited by the U11 head coach to participate in the invitational try-out session.
2. No try-out fee will be charged.
3. The head coach will send a list of players invited to the try-outs to the WCC Coordinator. Emails will be sent to players inviting them to the try-out process and provide details about venue, dates and times for the try outs.
4. Players will sign in to each try out session and will be assigned a pinny with a number that will be used each day of the tryout process.
5. Players must wear all required ball hockey equipment. Any player not wearing all required equipment cannot get try-out until he/she has put on the missing equipment.
6. At each tryout session, there may be a committee of coaches who will evaluate players as part of the selection process. This could include: the head coach, assistant coach(es), directors of coaching, and/or the technical directors.
7. It is the responsibility of the head coach along with the assistant(s) to determine the ball hockey drills and/or games for the tryouts.
8. During the tryout process, head coaches and evaluators will remain neutral and will refrain from making comments or make gestures that could be incorrectly perceived by players or parents. During the tryout process, head and assistant coaches will not provide specific feedback to parents about their player's performance in the tryouts until after the final team roster has been posted.
9. In the event that a player cannot participate in the tryout process due to illness, injury or other medical issues, a medical note may be required and the head coach **MUST** be immediately notified prior to the beginning of the try-out process. A player may forfeit their opportunity to try-out and be considered for placement on the team if they cannot try-out for any reason
10. At the last try-out session, players will be notified when the final rosters will be posted on the WCC page of the RMMBHA website.
11. The opinions, assessments, evaluation data, notes, rankings, and any other documented information compiled by coaches and other evaluators during the try-out process is strictly confidential. This information is only supposed to be used as a part of the selection process. No confidential information about any players is to be shared with anyone outside the evaluation/tryout process.
12. If the parent(s) of a released player (a player who does not make the U11WCC team) would like specific feedback about their players performance (beyond the release meeting), they can make the request to the head coach via email, but must wait 24 hours after the final team roster has been posted

Final Rosters for All Age Groups:

1. The head coach will determine the number of players carried on their team. Generally, teams consist of 15-16 runners and two (2) goalies. It is to the discretion of the Head Coach to take up to three (3) goalies.
2. It will be up to the coach's discretion to carry any AP players on his/her roster. Coaches will need to follow AP rules as stated by the WCC Rules and Regulations. AP players need to be submitted prior to the final roster being sent to the hosting tournament.
3. In the event a player on a WCC REP team decides they do not want to continue on that team, the coaches can follow one of the following procedures:
 - i. The head coach, along with any assistant coaches can refer to all assessments, statistics, notes, rankings and any other documented information they compiled during their selection process and select a replacement player. The head coach must then notify the WCC Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator and the Technical Directors will review the requested change to the roster. Once the change has been approved by the committee, then and only then, can the head coach approach the replacement team player.
 - ii. If the coaches have chosen to AP a player, they may simply promote this player to fill the empty spot on the team.